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Easter Travellers Flock to Island

Petition Results Of 4,000 Names Disappointment

An estimated 4,000 residents of Greater Victoria have lent their names to a petition to save a 19-year-old boy from the hangman.

The campaign is being led by a 29-year-old brother of the condemned man.

"I hope these will be enough when added to the Mainland total to reach our target of 30,000 names," said Leslie Chapman of 2674 Millstream Road, last night.

DISAPPOINTING

"But the results were disappointing."

The Langford resident has been campaigning for weeks to save the life of his brother Robert, under sentence to be hanged April 28.

Robert was found guilty of the shotgun slaying of another brother, John, on the family farm in the Fraser Valley last Oct. 16.

"I collected 850 of the signatures myself," said Mr. Chapman. He said he had expected to gather a far greater number.

Most of the names were gathered from petitions at 70 Greater Victoria churches.

Mr. Chapman sent the names off yesterday to Justice Minister Fulton at Ottawa. Accompanying the thousands of names is a request that Robert's sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

New Hitch Stalls Flight

Another hitch has forced postponement of a maiden flight by Victoria's first glider, scheduled for today.

The flight was planned for early this morning at Patricia Bay Airport but the department of transport "turned thumbs down" until a registration certificate is issued, a Victoria Soaring Club official said last night.

"As soon as the certificate is issued for our craft we will fly," he said.

Rural Area May Tap Elk Lake

Elk Lake water may soon supply a water system for Central Saanich.

Letters were read at a council meeting last week from A. DeB. McPhillips, Victoria MP, and from Defence Minister George Pearkes, Esquimalt-Saanich member, indicating their support for a municipal application to the department of transport to take over the system.

The system includes intake, pumphouse, chlorinator, filter beds, a 30,000-gallon backwash water tank, dosing chamber, and two 600,000-gallon concrete reservoirs on McTavish Road in North Saanich.

PRESENT SERVICE

At present, it serves the Patricia Bay Airport, the Dominion Experimental Station, and in the summer period, supplements the wells operated by the Brentwood Water District. Nearly five miles of 12-inch pipe carry the water from the lake to the airport.

Reeve H. R. Brown said at a zoning bylaw hearing at Brentwood recently that the proposal to bring a domestic water supply to the municipality was under consideration.

GEORGE PEARKES

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Pearkes Here Monday

Defence Minister George Pearkes will pay a flying 36-hour visit to Victoria Monday to meet constituents and visit the Esquimalt dockyard.

Mr. Pearkes will arrive by air from Ottawa, meet with Progressive Conservative officials of Esquimalt-Saanich riding, attend a private luncheon and hold a press conference at the Empress Hotel.

If he has sufficient time, he will tour his riding by road.

On Tuesday morning, the defence minister will visit HMC Dockyard at Esquimalt and from there will drive directly to Patricia Bay airport to fly back to Ottawa.

Mr. Pearkes' visit was announced by C. G. Rennie, president of Esquimalt-Saanich Conservative Association.

Rush Back To Start Today

Two-way stampede between Vancouver Island and the mainland over the Easter weekend is giving transportation authorities a real workout.

They got everybody to where he or she was going Thursday and Friday. Now it's time to get them back and it may be a difficult struggle.

Most of the wave of travellers washed from the mainland to the Island, officials said. Today and tomorrow, the main stream will be flowing the other way.

WAIT AHEAD

"Come early or be prepared to wait," was the advice given to motorists without reservations who plan ship travel to the mainland.

Ferries are planning to meet one of the heaviest Easter weekend home-coming travel peaks in several years.

Black Ball officials predicted waits of two hours and more for latecomers at Departure Bay near Nanaimo bound for the mainland.

STANDING ROOM

CPR officials expect recurrence of Thursday's "standing room only" conditions on many of its scheduled Nanaimo-Vancouver runs today.

Foot passengers returning to the mainland from Victoria can try the direct sailing of the Princess Marguerite. The 2,000-passenger ship makes the Victoria-Vancouver round trip daily and sailed from here Thursday with only about 300 aboard.

But car space here, as on other runs to the B.C. mainland, is scarce.

MUCH HEAVIER

A spokesman for Black Ball said last night that traffic to the Island last Thursday and Friday was much heavier than traffic to the mainland.

Ships were running out of Departure Bay at the height of the rush with half loads, while almost 200 cars at a time waited up to four hours at Horseshoe Bay for passage to the Island.

The rush of cars returning to the mainland is expected to begin about 2 p.m. today.

SHIP MISSING

A CPR spokesman said car space on most runs out of Nanaimo today is "pretty well sold out." The situation was worsened by fact that the Princess of Nanaimo was unable to go back on the run for the peak period after annual refit.

Washington State Ferries officials said there is plenty of space on twice-daily holiday sailings on the Sidney-Anacortes run.

AIRLINE BUSY

Trans-Canada Air Lines ran a total of 12 extra flights between Patricia Bay and Vancouver and four extra flights to Seattle on Friday. A similar peak is expected tomorrow. The air line moved some 7,000 people on the routes during the Easter weekend.

Vancouver Island Coach Lines ran extra buses both to Nanaimo and Seattle to handle the runs. Extra buses will be run as needed today and tomorrow.

'Miss Canada' Just Step Away

The girl chosen as Miss Victoria at the Jaycees' Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition in May will be eligible to compete for prizes totalling $1,200 in the Miss Canada contest.

Some 40 girls have already entered the Miss Victoria contest, and more could enter before the deadline for entries, April 1.

Pre-judging of the girls, to reduce the number of finalists to 10, will be held April 3. Judges for the contest are Mrs. Dorothy Wrotnowski, Colonist social editor; Miss Elizabeth Forbes, Ted Bissland, Ald. Geoffrey Edgelow and Capt. J. C. Gray.

The girl chosen as Miss Canada will win a $1,000 scholarship and will be eligible for a $200 prize to be given to the contestant most popular with other contestants.

Most talented girl will win $500, and prizes ranging down to $100 will be awarded to all contestants.

Driver 'Blacked Out,' Car Ran Away

Wreckage of car is viewed by bystander after its driver "blacked out" at wheel and the runaway vehicle collided with parked cars and narrowly missed a group of children on the boulevard in the 1200 block Vista Heights yesterday. The elderly driver, Henry W. Lester, was taken to hospital.—(William Boucher photo)

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Bystander Sweeps Children Out of Runaway Car's Path

Driver 'Blacked Out' Coming Down Hill

A group of children were saved by a quick-thinking bystander yesterday who hurled them out of the way of a car that went out of control when its driver had a "temporary blackout."

The driver, Henry W. Lester, 1926 Ferndale, Saanich, about 70, is in good condition in Royal Jubilee Hospital with head and chest injuries.

BORE DOWN

Rescuer was Sojen Jensen, 1244 Vista Heights. He was working in front of his home with a group of children watching him when the car suddenly bore down on them.

"I heard a racket and looked up. This car was on the boulevard and almost on top of us. I threw the kids out of the way and jumped back," Mr. Jensen said.

PASSED OUT

Police said Mr. Lester was driving on Vista Heights down a hill from The Rise to Blackwood when he passed out.

The car jumped the curb, sideswiping a car owned by Thomas Langly, 1518 Oakcrest, a television technician working on a set in the area.

FIVE CHILDREN

Four neighborhood children and David, his 10-year-old son, were watching as Mr. Jensen was breaking up his concrete front sidewalk. They heard the "thump" as the Lester car jumped the curb and then headed down on them.

"It happened in seconds. I threw out my hands and swiped the kids back. It was really close," Mr. Jensen said.

HIT TRUCK

After the car swept past the group, it curved back on to the road and then hit a parked truck owned by James Godfrey, Mount Newton Crossroad, parked in front of the home of city detective Gus Munro, 1238 Vista Heights.

Both the car and the truck were heavily damaged.

Mower Cuts Man's Hand

A 25-year-old Saanich man, mowing his lawn for the first time this year, lost portions of two fingers on one hand yesterday afternoon.

Victim was Don Hurst, of 713 Daffodil, who suffered the injury while using a power mower.

He was treated at St. Joseph's Hospital and released.

City Man Injured In Youths' Attack

Roy Paul, 35, of 1102 Admirals Road, was treated for a cut lip at Royal Jubilee Hospital after he was assaulted by two youths outside the Westholme Hotel, 1417 Government, at 5.45 p.m. yesterday.

Police said Mr. Paul was unable to identify his assailants.

BOB LAPP

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Seen in Passing

Barber **Bob Lapp** clipping hair at his best clip to keep up with the Easter rush (the 47-year-old barber has been cutting hair for 15 years, six years at present shop at Tattersal and Quadra. He and wife **Charlotte** live in house behind the shop. Mr. Lapp, who says his district is a pretty nice one, would like to see something done to clean up a rat-ridden, garbage-strewn lot in the area, "It's a disgrace," he said yesterday) . . . **Will Cave** oiling his new lawn mower . . . **Doug Park** stalking steelhead on the San Juan River . . . **Murray McArthur** turning up his coat collar against a chilling spring wind . . . **J. P. Peters** getting ready to return to Saskatchewan . . . **Maureen McCormick** going to Vancouver for the Easter weekend . . . **Mrs. Nancy Alexander** talking about having her photo taken . . . **Alec McKinnon** restoring a telephone service with a simple twist of a screwdriver . . . **Dave Holbrook** meeting his fiancee at Patricia Bay airport . . . **Dorothy Shillitto** buying Easter eggs for several nephews and nieces.

Beached Rowboat Awaits Owner

An old, flat-bottomed rowboat was washed ashore at the foot of Russell Street, where it can be claimed by its owner, John Muir, of 407 Milne Street, told police yesterday. It has a red bottom and green sides.

Seasick Victim Arrives

A weatherman suffering from chronic seasickness reached dry land yesterday after spending 25 days on the heaving Pacific Ocean.

Navy and air force combined in the operation which took the sick man off the weathership Stonetown at its stormy mid-Pacific station and left replacement to assist the hard-pressed staff.

Meteorological officer H. Shurie was transferred from the weathership to the frigate HMCS New Waterford at a point 1,000 miles west of Victoria on Thursday.

Despite rough seas, the frigate returned at high speed and reached Esquimalt harbor at 8 a.m. Saturday, three hours ahead of schedule. Mr. Shurie did not require hospital care.

$110 Disappears From City Store

James Burbridge, of the Broad Street Trading Co., 1421 Broad, yesterday told police $110 was missing from an unlocked cash drawer. He thought the money disappeared about 4.30 p.m. when he left the office to get a coat for two customers.

Nine-Mile Stretch on Island Now 60-Mile-an-Hour Zone

Three 60-mile-an-hour zones in special test sections of B.C. highways are now in operation—including one on Vancouver Island.

The legislature recently approved the raising of speed limits from 50 to 60 in certain special sections on a trial basis.

Island stretch extends for nine miles from Parksville to Whisky Creek, near Hilliers, on Highway 17 to Alberni.

Second is a 12-mile stretch from a point east of Abbotsford to the Vedder River Bridge. Third is a 50-mile section from Cache Creek to the Merritt Highway intersection.

The "speed up" was not scheduled to go into operation until Wednesday, but apparently the B.C. highways department decided to take advantage of the heavy holiday travel for a thorough initial test.

Signs were posted Thursday.

Boys' Town Plan Seeks City Help

Leading Victoria citizens are being asked to form a special committee to aid a program aimed at helping delinquent boys and boys from broken homes.

Clifford G. Moore, president of Boys' Town of British Columbia, said last night letters are being sent to Mayor Percy Scurrah and other leading citizens, asking their support.

The organization owns a 1,000-acre ranch in the B.C. interior, about 20 miles from Hope.

"We feel we have a great idea in Boys' Town of B.C., but we're just getting started and we'll need a lot of help," Moore said.

Any person willing to help in the formation of a Victoria committee to aid the venture may write to Mr. Moore at 6743 Kingsway, South Burnaby.

Trawlers Haul Fish for Mink

More than 40 trawlers landed fish for mink feed at Sidney over the past week, biggest part of 92,000 pounds of mink feed caught in British Columbia waters.

Reunion Dinner Held By Normal Graduates

Eleven of 34 male student teachers who graduated from Victoria Normal School in 1929 held a first reunion dinner last night.

All but one of the 11 are still teaching.

Attempts will be made to hold annual reunions, on each Easter Saturday, in Victoria.

Present at last night's reunion were Geoffrey D'Arcy, Colquitz Junior High School; Robert Huddleston, Mount View High School; Arthur Patterson, Tolmie School; Wilfred Orchard, South Park School; Charles Trotter, Victoria High School; David Thompson, Burnaby; Vernor Jones, Kamloops; John Rukin, Chemainus; Norman West, Sidney, and George Ferguson, New Westminster. Host Thomas Little has left the teaching profession.

Men who graduated in the class of 1928-29 and who are interested in attending next year's reunion should write to Mr. D'Arcy, 1321 Vimy Avenue, Victoria.

Check Garden Equipment *Remember Fire Permits*

Green-Thumb Brigade Ready to Go

Gardeners are flexing their green thumbs for the annual spring gardening splurge.

Greater Victoria sales of gardening equipment have been gradually warming up with the weather and dealers expect the real rush to start any day now.

"The wives haven't really started to drive their men out in the yard yet," said one merchant, "but they'll really be cracking the whip from now on."

He said "a couple of warm, sunny days will do the trick."

Other hardware store men agreed yesterday that business was "pretty good, but it will be another couple of weeks before we really get into high gear."

As thousands of Greater Victorians gird their loins and power mowers, spades, rakes, hoes and shears for the spring-time fray, they face the big problem of the moment, clearing up winter rubbish.

Rubbish-fire regulations:

In Victoria, householders must obtain a written permit, good for six months, from the fire department.

In Oak Bay, telephone permission from the fire department is needed before a trash fire may be lighted. One-year written permits are available for householders with screen-equipped incinerators.

Esquimalt doesn't issue fire permits at all. Permission for rubbish fires is granted over the telephone but the fires must be extinguished at nightfall.

Saanich residents can burn rubbish fires any time they want to in the five winter months — November through March. But from April 1 to Oct. 31, phone permission or written annual permits are necessary.